AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method for treating varicose veins of lower extremities comprising administering, to a patient in need thereof, a composition comprising an effective amount of one or more components selected from the group consisting of eicosapentaenoic acid, a salt thereof and and an ester thereof (collectively referred to as "the EPA component").

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the EPA component is incorporated into a food, a dietary supplement, a cosmetic, or a quasi drug which is then administered to said patient.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the EPA component comprises an effective amount of eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester.

10. – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A method for treating varicose veins of lower extremities comprising administering, to a patient in need thereof, a composition consisting essentially of a therapeutically effective amount eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

wherein said eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester is present in an amount of at least 85% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition of fatty acids in the composition; and

wherein said eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester is orally administered at a dosage amount of 0.1 to 9 g/day.

13. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein said composition consists essentially of eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester, tocopherol, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (**New**) A method for treating varicose veins of lower extremities comprising administering, to a patient in need thereof, a composition consisting essentially of a therapeutically effective amount eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester, other inactive fatty acids, tocopherol and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

wherein said eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester is present in an amount of at least 85% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition of fatty acids in the composition; and

wherein said eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester is orally administered at a dosage amount of 0.1 to 9 g/day.

15. (**New**) The method according to claim 14, wherein said composition consists of said eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester, other inactive fatty acids and tocopherol encapsulated in a capsule.